



SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION INITIATIVE

Task Force Recruitment

September 26, 2006

The Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), Health and Recovery Services Administration (HRSA) Mental Health Division (MHD) is forming the System Transformation Initiative Task Force to make recommendations for improvements in the delivery of public mental health services for people with severe and persistent mental illness. The Task Force will provide input to DSHS on implementation of specific legislative and budget initiatives from the 2006 legislative session.

Time Commitment

The Task Force will meet monthly in the Olympia or Sea-Tac area. Task Force members will be expected to share in assigned tasks outside of the meeting time, for example, researching policies, rules, regulations, best practices; and consulting with others outside of the group. Participants' time commitment will vary between 8 and 16 hours per month, including attending the monthly meetings. As the work of the Task Force unfolds, sub-groups will be formed that include others who are not part of the Task Force.

2006 Schedule

October 19, 2006 (9:00 – 3:00 Tacoma)
November 15, 2006 (9:00 – 3:30 Seatac)
December 21, 2003 (9:30 – 3:30 Olympia)

2007 Schedule*

January 18, 2007 (Open)
February 15, 2007 (Open)
March 15, 2007 (Open)
April 19, 2007 (Open)
May 2007 (TBD) (Seatac)
June 21, 2007 (Open)

* Sub-groups will meet as needed.

Issues the Project Will Address

- ❖ Statewide implementation of Program of Assertive Community Treatment teams
- ❖ Preparation of a plan for expanding housing options for individuals with mental illness
- ❖ Development of a utilization review system to assure people receive appropriate levels and durations of state hospital and community psychiatric inpatient care
- ❖ A comprehensive review of the state's involuntary commitment statute and system
- ❖ A study of the Medicaid benefits package and Medicaid managed care rates

Funds for travel and hotel expenses are available for selected mental health consumer and family member participants. To confirm participation, contact Gaye Jensen, DSHS, (360) 902-7789 or e-mail jensegf@dshs.wa.gov.

For more information on the System Transformation Initiative Task Force, call Andy Toulon, Project Manager, at (360) 902-0818 or e-mail touloan@dshs.wa.gov.